

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-44 (Cancelled).

Claim 45 (New): A keyboard unit comprising: a plurality of keys surrounding a center region and operable singly and chordally by a single finger.

Claim 46 (New): A keyboard unit comprising a group of keys arranged about a center in an array extending in two mutually transverse directions and adapted to be operable by a single finger with a playing area of maximum diameter 1.5 cm so that the single finger can operate a plurality of at least three of said keys together.

Claim 47 (New): A keyboard unit comprising a group of keys arranged about a center in an array extending in two mutually transverse directions and adapted to be operable by a single finger with a playing area of maximum diameter 1.5 cm so that the single finger can reach and operate a plurality of at least three of said keys singly or in combinations of two or more thereof without moving the finger more than a maximum distance of 0.5 cm.

Claim 48 (New): The keyboard unit as claimed in claim 46, in which each said maximum diameter is 1 cm.

Claim 49 (New): The keyboard unit as claimed in claim 47, in which said maximum distance is 0.3 cm.

Claim 50 (New): A unit as claimed in claim 45, in which the keys are connected to operate by a single touch selectively the twelve semitone notes of an octave of the musical scale.

Claim 51 (New): A unit as claimed in claim 45, wherein said plurality of keys comprise a center key.

Claim 52 (New): A unit as claimed in claim 45, wherein said keys are arranged for chordal operation of a surrounding key, or an adjacent chordal pair of surrounding keys, together with the center key to operate a note a semitone higher than without the center key.

Claim 53 (New): A unit as claimed in claim 45, wherein said keys are arranged for chordal operation of a surrounding key, or an adjacent chordal pair of surrounding keys, together with the center key to operate a note a semitone lower than without the center key.

Claim 54 (New): A keyboard comprising a plurality of spaced apart key units, each as claimed in claim 45.

Claim 55 (New): A keyboard as claimed in claim 54, comprising a plurality of said key units arranged to be operable by one and the same finger.

Claim 56 (New): A keyboard as claimed in claim 55, comprising a plurality of said groups of said key units arranged to be operable by respective fingers.

Claim 57 (New): A keyboard as claimed in claim 56, wherein said key units of each said finger group are arranged in a column and wherein said columns are approximately parallel to facilitate simultaneous playing operation of some or all of the groups by a single hand.

Claim 58 (New): The keyboard as in claim 54, wherein said keyboard is in the form of a musical instrument.

Claim 59 (New): The keyboard as in claim 54, wherein said keys are spaced along a back of the guitar neck for operation by the thumb of a hand that does the guitar fingering.

Claim 60 (New): A keyboard comprising keyboard units as claimed in claim 45, wherein said keys are connected to operate alphanumeric characters selectively.

Claim 61 (New): A keyboard as claimed in claim 60, wherein said keys are connected for said groups to be operable simultaneously by respective fingers to operate a selected ordered set of alphanumeric characters.

Claim 62 (New): The keyboard unit as claimed in claim 45, wherein said keys are connected to selectively operate lights.

Claim 63 (New): A keyboard comprising keyboard units as in claim 45, wherein said keys are formed as a mosaic keyboard.

Claim 64 (New): A keyboard comprising keyboard units as in claim 45, wherein said keys are arranged around a center region so that they are operable by a single finger.